

not despoil peasants. Craftsmen and
 merchants must
 receive what "will maintain them in their
 calling, and
 no more/" *

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As a rule of social policy, the doctrine was  
 at once  
 repressive and protective. " There is  
 degree above  
 degree, as reason is, and skill it is that men  
 do their  
 devoir whereas it is due. But certes,  
 extortions and  
 despite of your underlings is damnable/'<sup>14</sup>  
 As a  
 philosophy of society, it attempted to  
 spiritualize the  
 material by incorporating it in j^divine  
 universe, which  
 should absorb and transform it. To that  
 process of  
 transmutation the life of mere money-making  
 was  
 recalcitrant, and hence, indeed, the  
 stfgrrra attached  
 to it. For, in spite of the ingenuity of  
 theorists, finance  
 and trade, the essence of which seemed to be,  
 not service,  
 but a mere *appetitus divitiarum infinitus*,  
 were not  
 easily interpYe!e"d~in terms of social  
 function. Com-  
 paratively late intruders in a world  
 dominated by  
 conceptions hammered out in a pre-  
 commercial age,  
 they were never fitted harmoniously into the  
 mediaeval  
 synthesis, and ultimately, when they grew  
 to their full  
 stature, were to contribute to its  
 overthrow. But the  
 property of the feudal lord, the labour of  
 the peasant  
 or the craftsman, even the ferocity of the  
 warrior, were  
 not dismissecTas hostile^ or indifferent to

the life of the  
spirit. Touched by the spear of Ithuriel,  
they were to  
be sublimated into service, vocation and  
chivalry, and  
the ritual which surrounded them was  
designed to  
emphasize that they had undergone a re-  
dedication at  
the hands of religion. Baptized by the  
Church, privilege  
and power became office and duty.

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That the reconciliation was superficial,  
and that in  
attempting it the Church often degraded  
itself, without  
raising the world, is as indisputable as that  
its tendency  
was to dignify, material interest by  
stamping them  
with the impress of a universal design.  
Gentlemen  
took hard tallages" Suppressed the poor;  
but it was  
something that told that  
their true